

**Stella Grodzinskaya**

Supervisor
St. Louis, MO
Great Midwest Region

Stella's Career Path

Prior to 1992 – Neurologist in Russia

1996 – Clerk/Processor

1997 – PSR

2000 – Supervisor

Being a supervisor is challenging, but Stella's up for it. **"After the challenge of losing everything overnight, coming to the US, providing for my family, and learning a new language, I don't get afraid of challenges. I know I can work through it."**

Career Path Story: Stella Grodzinskaya**Words of Wisdom**

Looking back on her career path, Stella has these insights to share:

- Some things we can't control, but your life and future are in your own hands.
- If you need or want something, and you're not happy where you are, go for it and work for it.
- You are your own future, bottom line.

Stella's Personal Path

Stella is no ordinary supervisor. Before she emigrated from Russia in 1992, Stella was a neurologist and meningitis specialist. In the US, she was overqualified for most jobs but couldn't provide for her family and studied for the US Medical Licensing Exam at the same time. She babysat, cleaned houses and offices, and delivered pizza. She worked as a filing clerk in a doctor's office when she met a SmithKline Beecham (SBCL) Route Service Representative who asked her, "If you're a doctor, what are you doing here?" The RSR talked to her supervisor at SBCL and arranged for Stella to have an interview. Stella was hired as a clerk/processor while she gained the twelve months of experience she needed to become a phlebotomist at SBCL.

Stella enjoyed her work and staying involved in the medical field. When a supervisor position became available, she applied but didn't get the position. "Instead of getting upset, I worked to improve my skills and, when another position opened, my friend in the lab pushed me to apply. This time I was relaxed and not nervous, and I got the job."

The position is challenging, but Stella's up for it. She continues her development with her manager pushing her to go higher. Stella collaborates with other departments as well as her employees, and she has earned their respect.

"I'm proud of myself for pushing and accomplishing a lot. My biggest regret is that I didn't try to pass the board to get my medical license in the US. But I had to provide food and a roof for my family. So I put that aside, and I'm very proud of what I accomplished and what I became. I work two jobs now and worked four jobs when my son was in college. Everything I do is motivated by my family, and I accomplished my biggest goal of bringing up my son. My son sees how I grew in America and provided for him, and he took my example. I have a successful son and am a happy grandmother of three."